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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1914

THE PREDICAMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP IN
AMERICA AND ONE SOLUTION¹

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WHAT is scholarship? The answer is: The discovering, the organizing and the explaining of new facts. Only the uninformed and unscholarly are in the habit of designating the mere diffusion of knowledge as scholarship. The man who merely reads and speaks what he reads is no scholar, nor is the man a scholar who merely requires others to study what is already known. Any nation that believes only in the diffusion of knowledge is on the road to decay. But it is not my purpose to prove the generally accepted notion that productive scholarship is the only scholarship. We must, however, agree on the value of scholarship or the argument in this paper can have no importance. That no one may say that our subject is idle talk, I want to say, I believe for any nation that has any hope of perpetual existence that the scholars are the most essential of any class of society. And may we postulate, for the sake of the argument, that God will not provide and take care of the scholars?

And what is the predicament of scholarship in America? Simply this: That the institutions that have attempted to foster scholarship have not lived up to their opportunities. We may inquire into the reasons later. The one solution that the author proposes is to establish a new and higher institution, whose sole purpose would be to promote scholarship, and thereby furnish a new inspiration to educational, industrial and private establishments.

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹ Read before the Outlook Club of the University of Iowa at the February meeting.